



Rep. Frank Pallone  
Chair  
House Energy and Commerce Committee  
2107 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers  
Ranking Member  
House Energy and Commerce Committee  
1035 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair Pallone and Ranking Member McMorris Rodgers:

The Wikimedia Foundation writes to strongly support the House Energy and Commerce Committee's bipartisan and bicameral efforts to enact consumer privacy protections for everyone in the United States. The American Data Privacy and Protection Act (ADPP Act) represents a good first step toward achieving a long-sought goal of ensuring privacy protections and reducing harmful uses of data that can amplify disinformation, increase risks of economic and even physical harm, fuel spam and other fraudulent schemes, and deter the free exchange of knowledge that is essential to the growth and development of the projects the Wikimedia Foundation hosts, including Wikipedia.

The goal of the Wikimedia projects is to provide access to freely reusable, objective, and verifiable content that everyone can edit and improve. As an organization dedicated to a vision of the web as an inclusive space shaped by people from around the world, Wikimedia is committed to actively promoting wide and equitable participation in knowledge. Privacy is essential to this effort. Many people, particularly members of marginalized groups or people who are located in regions with authoritarian governments, may be deterred from contributing to our projects if their contributions can be surveilled. The logic for our privacy-protective [policy](#) is therefore simple: storing personally identifying information imperils the privacy of contributors and can discourage some individuals from contributing in the first place. Based on this principle, Wikimedia collects very little information about both readers and contributors to Wikimedia projects and also facilitates pseudonymous and anonymous contributions. Wikimedia also does not engage in online advertising, allow the placement of any advertisements on its projects, or have a commercial focus. Moreover, Wikimedia does not use algorithms powered by a trove of personal data to target users of its projects with suggested content.

Because of Wikimedia's deep commitment to privacy, and our strong belief that privacy protections will advance the goals of creating an internet that is free, open, secure, and available to everyone, we were pleased to see many of the protections the ADPP Act would

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create. In particular, the bill would create new protections for civil rights that will help protect many from harmful discrimination. The bill would also meaningfully restrict some of the most harmful uses of biometric information, location data, and other kinds of sensitive personal information, create strong protections for sensitive covered data, and grant people the ability to opt-out of targeted advertising. The Wikimedia Foundation further supports the ADPP's efforts to empower people by giving them more control over their personally identifiable information. With these provisions, the ADPP makes significant strides toward putting individuals in charge of which entities can collect their data and how it can be used and toward restricting some of the most insidious and unreasonable uses of data that can harm human rights and undermine some of our most cherished freedoms.

Of course, no legislation is perfect. The Wikimedia Foundation looks forward to working with the Committee to improve the bill as it moves through the legislative process. In particular, we urge the Committee to consider amendments to places in the bill that would inadvertently require covered entities to collect and use more covered data than they already do in order to comply with certain provisions, including the provision requiring individual notice of material changes to policies. It could also be beneficial to define specifically what an "advertisement" covered by the bill is and to consider stronger enforcement mechanisms to ensure large covered entities comply with new requirements and will not treat penalties for violations as a mere cost of doing business. We further recommend specific examination of potential impacts on non-profit entities that have an affiliated structure and consideration of ways in which small non-profit entities could be helped to comply with the legislation's new requirements.

Thank you for considering our views and for your work to enact such important legislation to protect digital and human rights for everyone. The Wikimedia Foundation looks forward to continuing this conversation. If you have further questions, please contact Kate Ruane, Lead US Policy Specialist for the Wikimedia Foundation, [kruane@wikimedia.org](mailto:kruane@wikimedia.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kate Ruane', written in a cursive style.

Kate Ruane  
Lead US Policy Specialist  
Wikimedia Foundation

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